



# ***News Release***

**U.S. ARMY FIELD SUPPORT COMMAND**

***February 1, 2006***

**Command, Garrison celebrates Black History Month**



**By Darryl Howlett**  
**Army Field Support Command Public Affairs**

Members of the Rock Island Arsenal community celebrated the importance of Black History Month on Feb. 1.

The Army Field Support Command and U.S. Army Garrison Rock Island sponsored a cake cutting ceremony – held inside the Caisson Room -- to kick off the celebration.

Maj. Gen. Jerome Johnson, commanding general, Army Field Support Command, gave brief remarks on the significance of the month.

“We’re celebrating Black History Month, but more importantly, it’s an American History Month,” he said. “Blacks have been a part of America since its beginning. Blacks unfortunately came here on slave ships and were slaves for over 200 years.”

Johnson said despite African-Americans struggles, America’s improvement continues.

“That’s what’s so great about America. Those young and old men who wrote the Constitution and Declaration of Independence said ‘We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness,’” Johnson said. “Our nation took those words to heart and started to fight to make the documents the truth from the Bill of Rights through the Civil Rights movement.”

Speaking on the recent death of Coretta Scott King, Johnson remembered both her achievement as well as those of her husband, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

“They dedicated their lives for the civil rights movement,” he said. “It was as if (Dr. King) held up the Constitution and Declaration of Independence in his hand and said, ‘I’m going to hold the nation responsible to live up to its creed.’”

Johnson closed his remarks by encouraging the audience to continue making America the greatest country on Earth.

“In less than 40 years our country has completely turned upside down from the 200 years of slavery – that’s remarkable,” he said. “You should be proud of what we have done as a nation. Let’s all enjoy this month, and continue to improve this great nation, the greatest nation on Earth.”

Carmen Ausborn, Equal Employment Opportunity Counselor for the U.S. Army Garrison Rock Island, thanked the different organizations on the Arsenal that participated in the event.

“I’m thankful to have the opportunity that myself and other EEO offices are allowed to bring more awareness to tenants of the Arsenal and about the plights of minorities,” Ausborn said.

Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class Latisha Turner, AFSC Equal Opportunity Advisor, spoke of the importance of having not only Black History Month, but other cultural and ethnic events throughout the year.

“I think it’s necessary to get out the information. It brings out awareness of the different cultures. We live in a culture that’s diverse,” Turner said.

Concluding the event, Roy Moody, chief, AFSC Equal Employment Opportunity office, and Nancy Toohill, acting chief of the U.S. Army Garrison Rock Island Equal Employment Opportunity office, participated in the cake-cutting ceremony.

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